



Grace Baptist Church is 
A Great Place To Grow in Christ
For the Entire Family

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| Sunday April 26, 2015 |
| This Weeks Events |
| Today: 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Bible 101</i> —Pastor Coale 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Shaking Things Up For Revival</i> —Pastor Coale 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Jr. Church</i> —Pastor Saloum 6:00PM: (Grange)— <i>Advanced Bible (How to Pray)</i> —Pastor Coale |
| Upcoming Events |
| May 3, 2015: 2:00PM: (Fir Lane)— <i>SHUT IN SAINTS</i> —Matthew Coale |
| May 6, 2015: 7:00PM: (Pastors House)— <i>Discovery Group</i> —Pastor |
| May 17, 2015: All interested in helping in this years VBS are invited 12:30PM: (Pastors House)— <i>VBS Planning Meeting</i> —Pastor (Light lunch provided) |
| July 5, 2015: NOON: (Grange)— <i>CHURCH PICNIC</i> — |
| August 17-19, 2015: 9:00AM-NOON: (Grange)— <i>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</i> — |
| October 18, 2015: http://russells2mexico.com 10:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Missionary to Mexico</i> —Adam Russell Family 11:00AM: (Grange)— <i>Missionary to Mexico</i> —Adam Russell Family NOON: (Grange)— <i>Meet the Missionary POTLUCK</i> — |
| September 11-14, 2016: EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS— <i>SAM GIPP</i> |

“The reason we are in this perpetual mode of defeat is the absence of spiritual vitality.”

-Dr. Tony Evans

The Mainline Church

By Rev. Ron Coale, Pastor

I recently read an article by Amy Julia Becker called, "*Why this Evangelical is Grateful for the Mainline Church.*" In it she sites the benefit of her church hopping and para-church experience and states it is beneficial for her spiritual diet. Concluding her article, she queries why there cannot be assumptions made across the board about God working in all self-proclaimed Christian organizations like those that promote homosexuality and those that follow women preachers.

I read this article feeling that it is because of people like Amy that loyalty for their Lord has eroded from the ranks of Christianity. A mixed diet of denominational influence would seem beneficial if you were to assume that spiritual food were the same as physical food, but it is not. With physical food it is necessary to eat varieties because each different food is deficient in one area or another. Carrots for example are rich in vitamin A, but contain no protein. Tomato's have no vitamin D, but milk does. Each different kind of physical food that we consume is deficient in some area or another. So, a diet of physical food consisting of variety is beneficial for our bodies. The key word to understand in this illustration is the

word "deficient." While foods may have deficiencies, God does not. He is either in something or He is not. He is "all in" or "all out." The church is either following Christ or it is not!

People have forgotten that the Devil is the greatest deceiver that ever lived. In the Bible he is transformed into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). He can make anything seem like it is pure Christian, but it may not be. You have to be careful. Even the teachers and leaders of churches may be so sweet on the outside, but corrupt on the inside and you can be totally duped (2 Cor. 11:13, 15).

Everybody cannot be right. Someone must be wrong. A variety in your spiritual diet does not make a spiritually whole person. In fact, it makes a spiritually deficient person. How is that? When you mix good stuff with good stuff, you get good stuff (good + good = good). But, when you mix good stuff with a little bad stuff you get a big lump of bad stuff (good + bad = bad). The Bible tells us that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump (Gal 5:7-9; 1 Cor. 5:6). You just add one single wrong doctrine to your spiritual diet, then you get a to-

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tally corrupt doctrine on which you build your understanding of God.

When people use the term "Mainline" or "Mainstream" they usually mean they are breaking away from the norm. This implies change. Change can be good or it can be bad. It can be used in a physical, mental or spiritual application. Concerning the church it is used in a spiritual application.

Change involves moving. All change involves "to" and "from" (i.e. you are going to something and from something. Or, if you look at it another way, you are going from something and to something else.). Spiritually speaking, you can be moving from something that is good to something that is bad. Or you can be moving from something that is bad and to something that is good. So when Amy uses the term "Mainline Church" she is implying that she is moving from something that is bad to something that is good. I deduced that from the picture of a broken down church building that she uses to illustrate her point. She is saying that the "Mainline Church" is a broken down, out of date institution, just waiting to be demolished.

God is good. He is in no way bad. If He is in the "Mainline" church, then it is a good thing.

Why would you want to leave a good thing and go out and eat a few cornhusks with the pigs? Of course, she doesn't think that. So she must mean that the mainline church is bad, therefore she needs to move into the realm of the para-church/church hopping arena in order to find something good. Friends, either God is in it or He is not! The wisest man that ever lived said there is nothing new under the sun (Ecc. 1:9). God does not change (Heb. 13:8; Jas 1:17). We are the ones that change. Man is fickle; always looking for some new thing to tickle his itch for variety, and it is never there. Everything is mans attempt at improving on God's creation; nothing more.

If there is a "Mainline church" then I wonder if there is a "Non-mainline church"? And, if there is, in what way are they not "mainline?" Is it in doctrine? Code? Practice? Without realizing it, she infers that it is doctrine, for she proclaims she is a member of the "liberal" denomination who is grateful for the "Mainline church", but the "scorn that liberals display towards conservatives, and the antagonism of conservatives for liberals grieves" her. Is it God that we are concerned with following or is it a church or belief system? If there is not a vested, personal interest in God, then there is a

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sad deviation from the personal relationship that God desires with His creation, who is made in His image.

There is no room for accepting, so called "liberal" Christianity. No matter what you may "believe" or hold as a "faith", the Bible makes no concessions for it. In fact the Bible teaches that the final days will be characterized by a one world coming together against God. There will be a one world money, one world government, and even a one world religion. Yes, an ecumenical, evangelical one world religion lead by the beast, a follower of Satan. The people of the world will swoon to it because of its practice of wide acceptance. They will see it as not only okay, but beneficial.

So, when I read articles like Amy's, it scares me because I think of how many people get confused about things that she says. Without realizing it, she is falling into a master plan of destruction and taking a whole generation of people with her. No, it is not the length of your hair or the shortness of your

skirt. It is not the wearing of pants or the refusal to eat certain things. It is not if you smoke or not. It is doctrine (the teaching) that divides, and there is only one division--the right division or the wrong division as determined by the mind of God, not the interpretation of man.

God left His doctrine in the form of the King James Bible and Satan knows that. That is why His first attack in his grand scheme of ecumenical destruction is to dilute or change the teachings of the book. This has been going on for some time now, and it is to the point that people are just not aware there are any differences between the KJV and all of the rest.

The final days will be characterized by a one world coming together against God.

The second is to flood the Christian world with Para-church organizations. This way, loyalty to one's church would be broken up and the church would be effectively diluted. Yes, Christianity is not defined by one particular church. The church is the body of Christ. Para-church organizations are like "para"sites of the larger body. They are like a freeloader, sponge, leech or bloodsucker. They ride on the

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backs of churches leeching away all of the resources that a church has in order to exist successfully at the expense of the church's ability to do it's job. Likewise, tele-evangelists do the exact same thing. Never do you hear them preaching to send your offerings and tithes to your local church. They would rather you send it to them thus robbing the churches ability to operate. These types of parasites are making themselves stronger at the expense of killing the church. I have been to meetings with people where they wanted to partner with our church to reach the community. Our part of the partnership was to supply the money, equipment, and volunteers to work in their program. Naturally I declined because, the program of reaching the community for Christ is not anyone else's job but the church.

The third step is to convince people that God's church is dead and that it cannot be revived. It convinces people that they need a new thing if Christianity is to survive. Once people are convinced they need something new, then in steps Satan to provide the alternative for which they seek--his alternative. What he provides for them is a church full of acceptance, and this acceptance is to accept known sins

that God would never allow attached to His name. He confuses Christians with this thing of acceptance because, after all, everyone is a sinner, right? The difference is that Christians are trying to change their life towards holiness. Yes! They sin, but they are trying not to sin. They are not just accepting that they are the way they are. Whereas before, people would change to meet God's standards, now Satan has used "acceptance" to make God change to meet peoples standards. There is a very big difference between the two.

In conclusion, to assume upon God is disrespectful and dangerous. Not in the sense that you can count on Him to not change or keeping His promises, but in the sense that you presume that He will bless you. None of us deserve the blessing of God. It is our nature to anger and disappoint Him. Only Jesus Christ makes us acceptable to Him. We are to be a blessing to Him. God does not exist to bless us. He exists in spite of us. He always has, and He always will.

Bless God, support your church and know that Satan is a master at deceiving people. Don't fall for the lie that they church is dead. Oh, it is very much alive.~

PRAYER REQUESTS

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| 607. | Pastor | Souls saved in Shelton. |
| 629. | Matt | Gregson Family Finances. |
| 680. | Matt | Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000). |
| 685. | Dee P. | Dee's brother Duane (a proud atheist) salvation. |
| 755. | Regina | Grace Baptist Church to grow in membership. |
| 763. | Sally | Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction. |
| 775. | Sally | Mom (Charity) strength to finish nursing program. |
| 796. | Regina | Strength for God's will in her life. |
| 803. | Dee P. | Improved church attendance for her family. |
| 822. | Regina | Personal Health. |
| 845. | Regina | John Berger (93) health/strength to continue preaching. |
| 849. | Sally | Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future. |
| 865. | Dee P. | Son Joseph's health problems & depression. |
| 867. | Dee P. | Family members to read KJB daily. |
| 918. | Rich | Church finances |
| 955. | Lori S. | Son (Phil Gosline) has lymphoma |
| 971. | Sally | Robyn (Co-worker) having marriage problems. |
| 972. | Jeanine | Protection from Ebola for family workers in the health field. |
| 973. | Dee | Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse. |
| 975. | Dee P. | Brother-in-law George stage 4 terminal lung cancer |
| 976. | Dee P. | Our Christian men to grow as spiritual leaders in our homes, churches and communities. |
| 977. | Regina | Comfort for John Rodius. Wife passed away. |
| 978. | Regina | Healing for John Rodius. Just got out of surgery. |

What the Bible says about LOVE

- *Eccles 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*
- *Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
- *2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

